

SPIRIT





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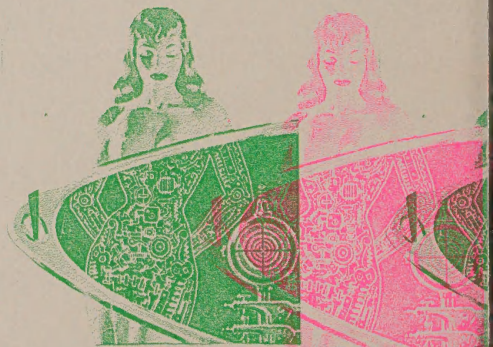
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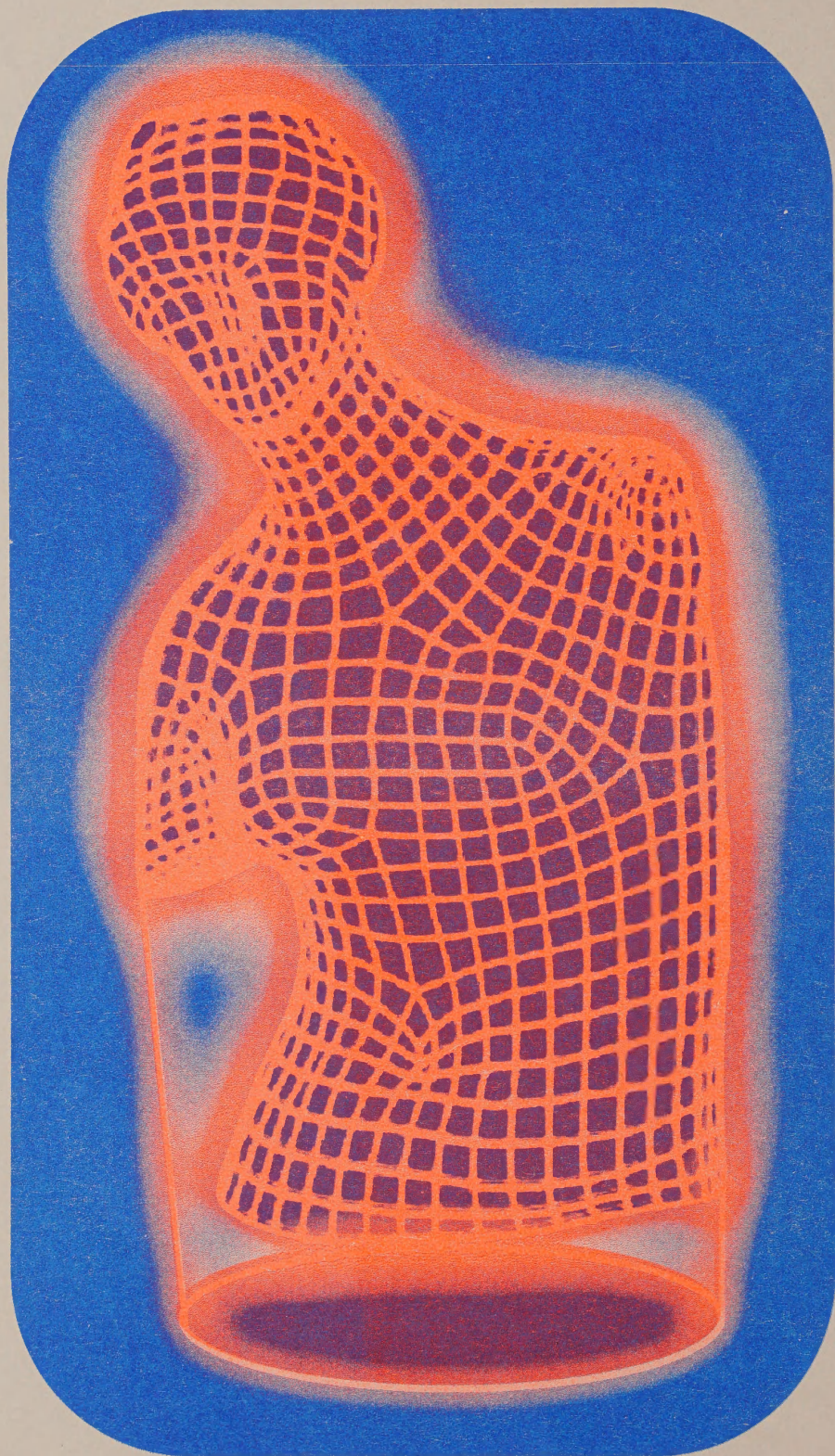


In many incarnations,  
depictions of a robotic fusion with human life  
have represented a freighting potential future  
void of individuality,  
a threatening loss of humanity  
in an increasingly mechanical world.

However, with their growing ubiquity,  
machines have been idealized  
as an ultimate expression of human ability,  
inspiring narratives in which a fantastical merge  
between the human and the mechanical  
is treated as transcendental.

The distinction between such representations,  
lies in the role of conscious life,  
the machine's relationship to a spirit.



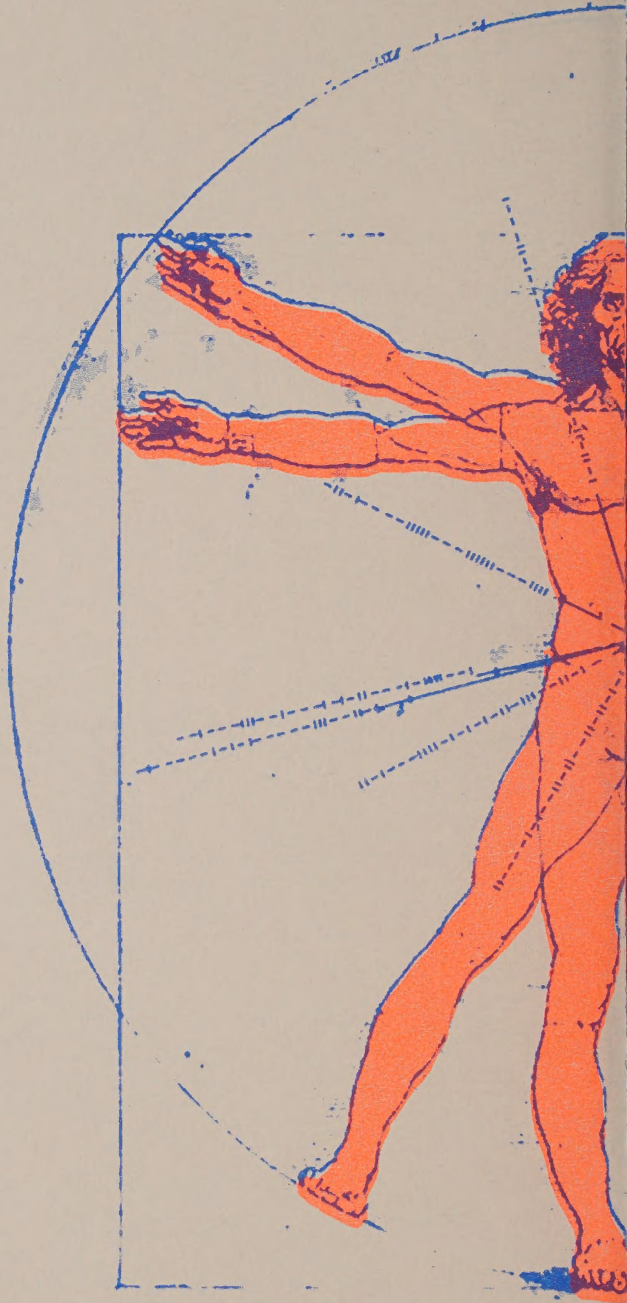




The possibility of digitized selfhood,  
existing outside the limitations  
of constructed reality,  
can be liberatory  
for socially subjugated bodies,  
by opening the potential  
for innumerable modes of identifying.

However, the superpower afforded by  
a fusion with the spirit realm of the digital,  
an augmented, immaterial selfhood,  
a disembodied soul,  
is frequently exploited  
as a denial of positionally,  
supposedly removed from consequence,  
and a refusal to acknowledge that such power  
is implemented by infrastructures of destruction.

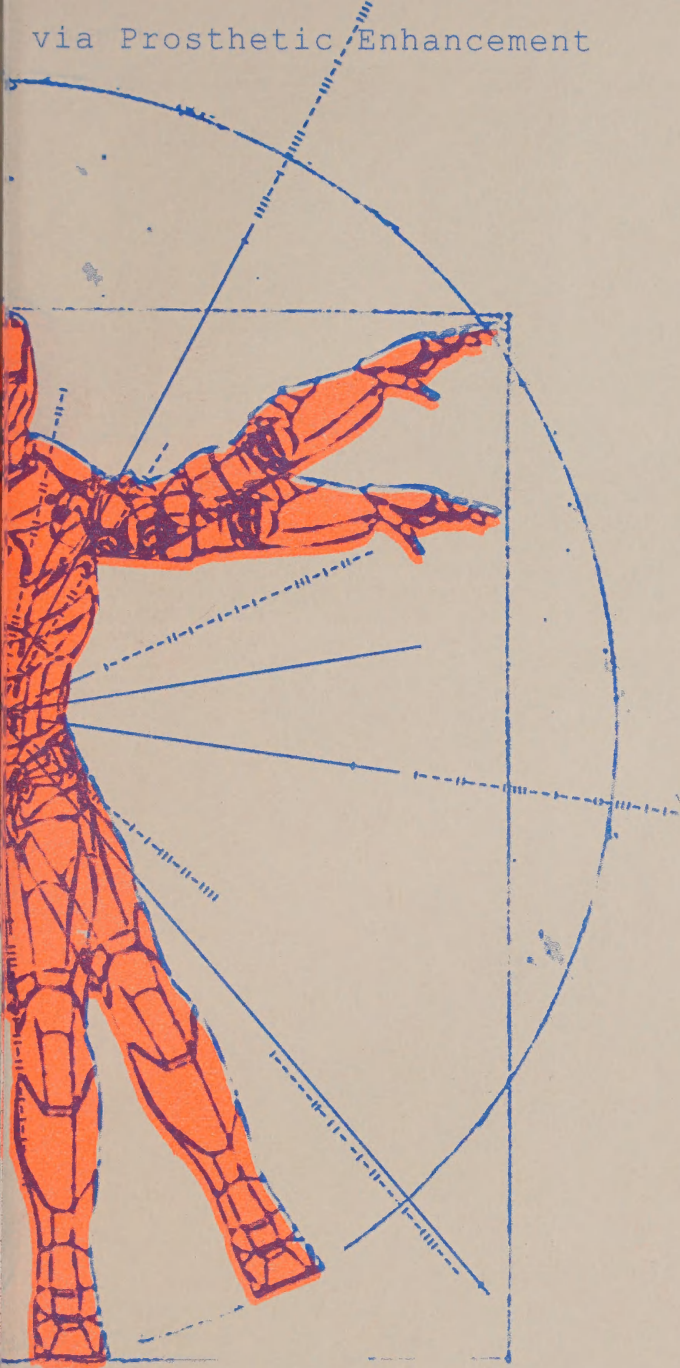




The seeming split between  
the spiritual and the scientific,  
are imagined to resolve in the singularity:  
a masculinist project of extending the self  
beyond the limitations of the natural body,  
a consciousness existing as a digital projection:  
a ghost beyond the machine.

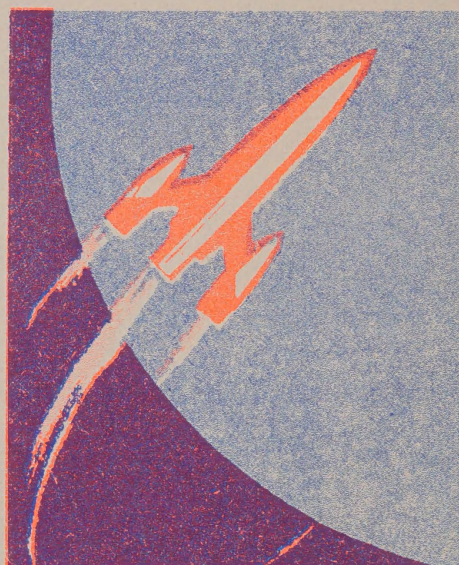
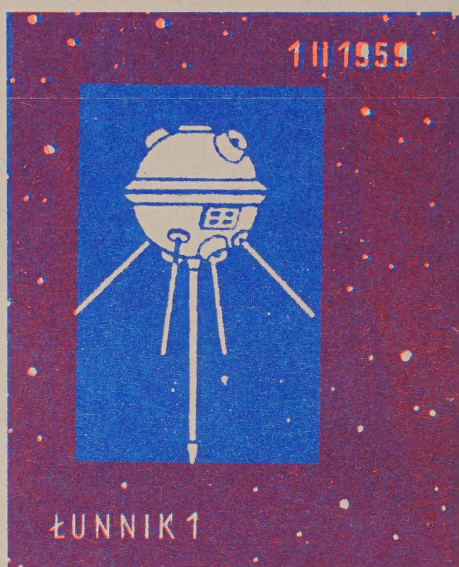
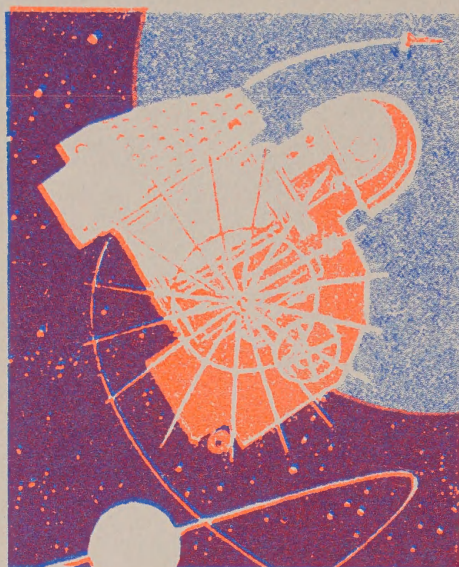


via Prosthetic Enhancement



This transcendental fantasy of untouchable power, where humans are made gods through prostheses, produces the conditions for injustice through a removal from responsibility.

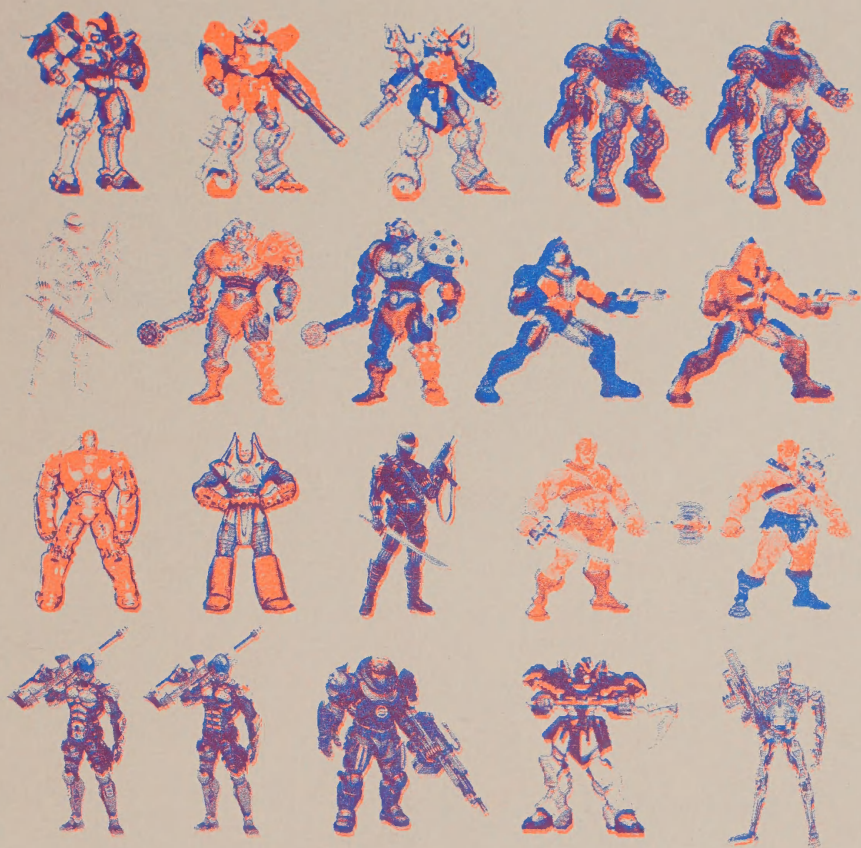




The Myth of Independence:

a fantasy of control  
built on an assumed eventual state  
of ultimate power  
via technological extension,  
relying always on  
an exploitation of environments  
and an erasure of othered bodies.





Manifesting in characterizations  
of over-compensation,  
this myth is ubiquitously reflected in  
fetishistic, hyper-masculine portrayals  
of prosthetically weaponized bodies,  
figurations of vigilante super-humanness,  
stimulating ideologies  
of rugged individualistic liberty  
and used to justify  
real world prejudiced violence.

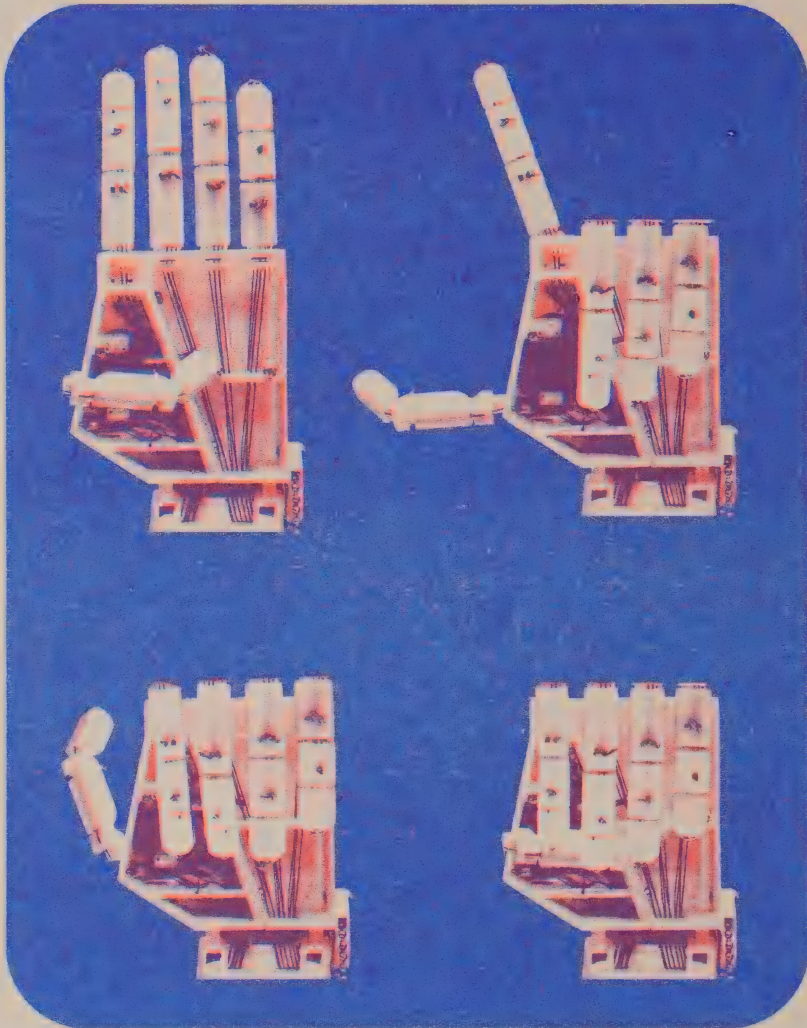












## Imagined Futures

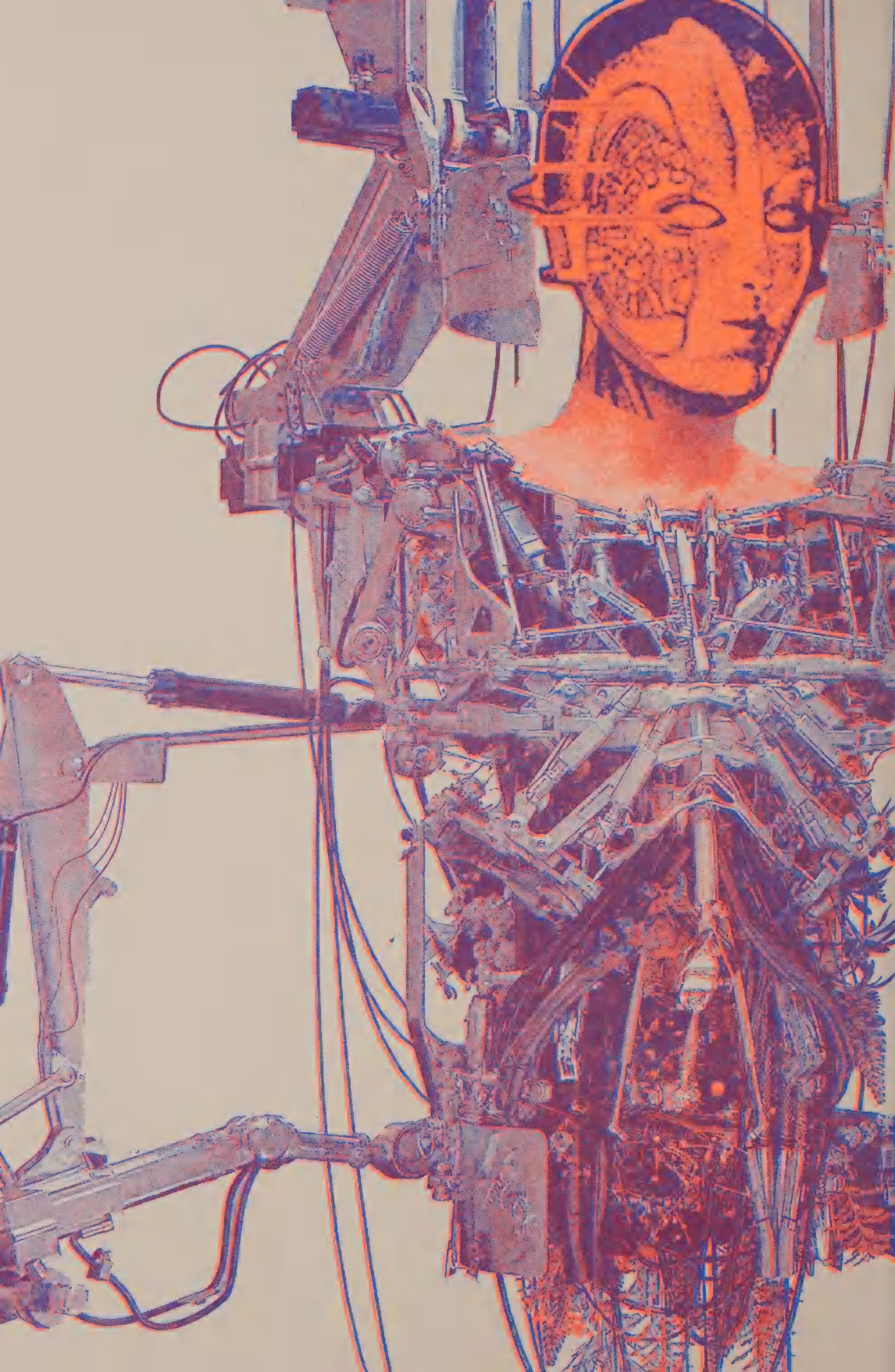
Embodied experiences  
of the prosthetically extended self  
present alternative ways of relating to  
environments, each other, and our constructions.

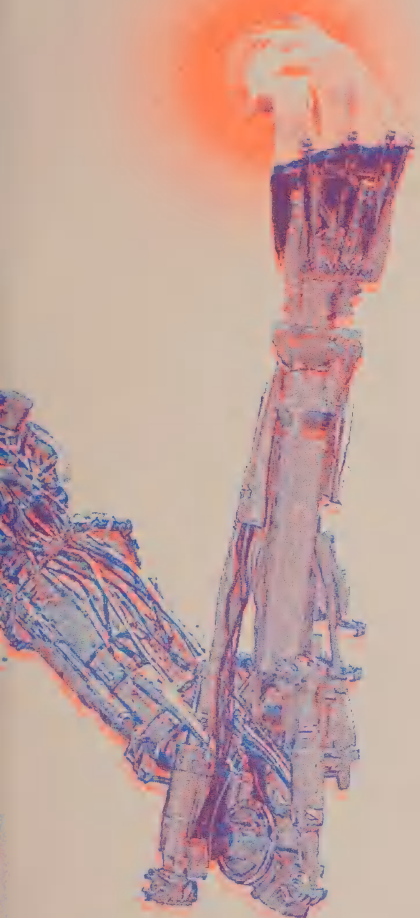




Depictions of a cyborg  
are either empowering or harmful  
to differently abled bodies,  
offering modes of existence  
beyond normative limitation,  
while suggesting that prosthetic  
and technological intervention  
are necessary for disabled bodies to appear whole.







Atypical expressions of gendered identity,  
and robotically supported bodies,  
can offer a way out of  
instrumentalizing representations  
of the feminized robotic figure,  
traditionally coded as a tool or prize  
in service of expansionist agendas.



Practices in the spiritual,  
the religious, the metaphysical, or esoteric  
are most often considered  
to directly oppose the scientific.

A constructed ideological hierarchy prioritizes  
formal logic and rationality  
over anything seemingly less concrete  
or that does not rely on  
the instrumentalization  
of bodies, knowledge, and space.



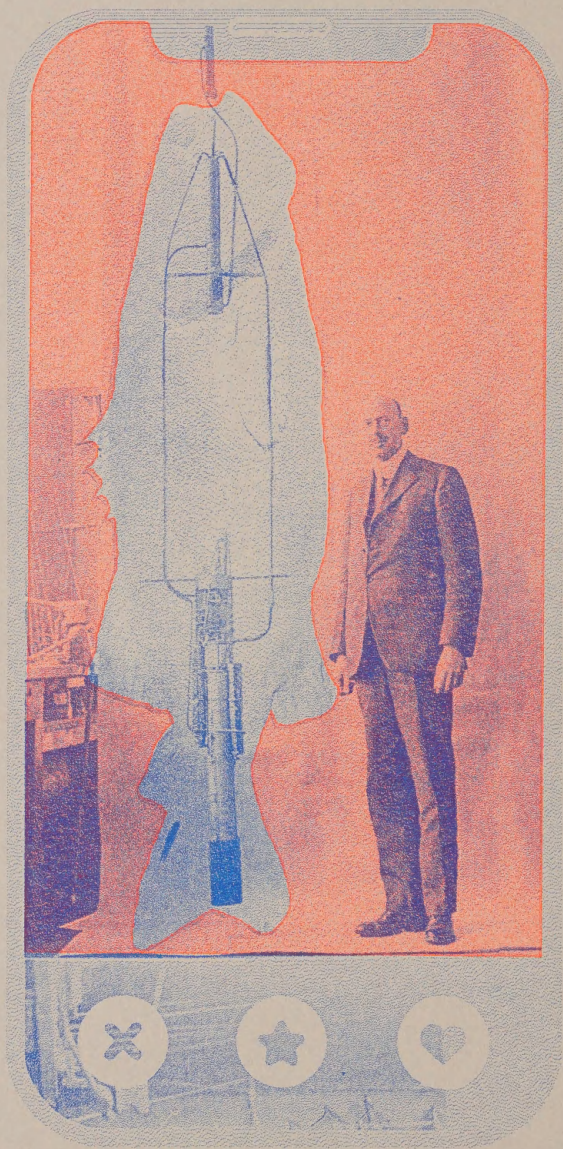




Still, scientific advancement is fantasied  
as synonymous with magical power.

And digital technologies are at once symbolic of  
universal connect-ability and a veil of mystery.









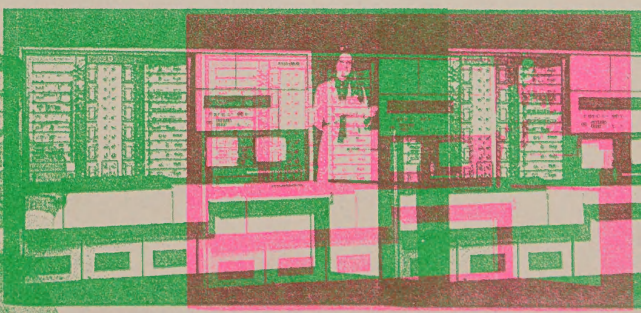
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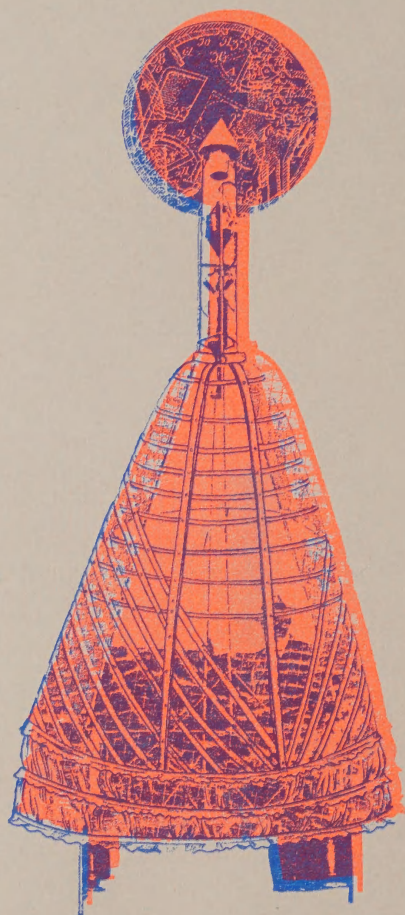
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